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REMARKS

The Applicant appreciates the thorough review of the application by the Examiner.
Reconsideration and allowance are requested.

No new matter has been added by the amendments. No new issues are raised by the amendments.

The claim objections made by the Examiner based on informalities and dependence on rejected claims have been satisfied by the amendments to Claims 5, 9, and 14-18.

Examiner's objection to the specification has been satisfied by the amendment to the Abstract.

Claims 1, 2, and 14 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Hacker (U.S. Serial No. 5,375,628).

Claims 1, 2, and 14 are patentable over Hacker. For an invention to be anticipated, it must be demonstrated that each and every element of the claimed invention is present in the "four corners" of a single prior art, either expressly described therein or under the principle of inherency. Lewmar Marine Inc. v Barient Inc., 3 USPQ2d 1766, 1767-1768 (Fed. Cir. 1987). The absence from prior art reference any claimed element negates anticipation. Kloster Speedsteel AB v. Crucible, Inc., 230 USPQ 81, 84 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

Hacker does not teach or describe all of the elements of Claim 1. Hacker does not teach or describe threading openings in an apertured board for pulling through a series of harness cords, or that the board is composed of at least two separate detachable small partial apertured boards.

As described in the specification, an aperture board is "a board through which harness cords connected with the tackle cords, transferring the motion of the hooks of the jacquard, are extending before they further extend towards the cumber board." The location and operation of an aperture board are discussed at length in the specification and can be seen in the drawings, particularly figures 2a, 2b, 2c, 6a, 6b, and 6c.

The aperture board in Hacker is shown in Figure 1 without a reference number, located between the Jacquard machine 1 and the harness cords 3, and is in only one part. The adjustment system in Hacker relates to an adjustable cumber board 8, referred to by Hacker as a "harness board", and tension spring grill 7. Each is divided into two parts, and both can be adjusted to vary the density of shed forming.

The present invention does not relate to a cumber board or tension grill and its purpose is not to vary the density of shed forming. The structure of the aperture board is dictated by the properties and construction of the Jacquard machine and not by the properties of the fabric part as for a cumber board. The present invention is a solution to different problems than Hacker. The present invention allows for: better facilities during the preparatory installation of the harness and a shorter assembly time, aperture boards that can be manufactured by injection molding for increased functionality, the ability to replace only the parts of the board that are worn instead of the entire board, and a reduced height requirement for installation in the Jacquard weaving machine.

Because no reference teaches or suggests all of the elements of Claim 1, including threading openings in an apertured board for pulling through a series of harness cords and that

the board is composed of at least two separate detachable small partial apertured boards, Claim 1 is patentable over Hacker under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

Claim 14, which includes the elements of providing an apertured board composed of at least two separate detachable small partial apertured boards and providing the apertured board with threading openings for pulling through the series of harness cords, is patentable over Hacker under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) for the same reasons.

Claim 2 is dependent on independent and patentable Claim 1, and adds the further patentable feature of a receiving grid for the said small partial apertured boards. Hacker does not teach or suggest this element. The adjustment system 15, grill 7, rod linkage system 21, and the mechanisms connecting these items with the lumber board 8 do not constitute a receiving grid. The purpose of those elements is to tilt the lumber board and tension spring grill synchronically to adjust the density of the shed forming.

The receiving grid of the present invention is a grid in which the different small aperture boards are fixed and positioned, and is not an adjustable mechanism like the elements in Hacker referred to by the examiner. In Hacker, the tension spring grill and the lumber board are divided into two parts pivotally connected by hinges 12 and 13 and are not similar to the receiving grid of the present invention.

Because no reference teaches or suggests all of the elements of Claim 2, it is patentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Hacker. Therefore, Claims 1, 2, and 14 are patentable over Hacker.

Claims 3 and 4 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Hacker (U.S. Serial No. 5,375,628).

Claims 3 and 4 are patentable over Hacker. Claim 3 is dependent on independent and patentable Claim 1, and adds the further patentable element that the small partial apertured boards are made of synthetic material. Applicant traverses Examiner's holding of obviousness without citing to art. The attraction of plastics to automakers is not relevant to the present application, as that is not analogous art. Plastics and metals have different characteristics, as all materials do. No art suggests the use of synthetic materials to be desirable in the making of harness devices for weaving machines. No art teaches or suggests the use of synthetic material, therefore Claim 3 is patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Hacker.

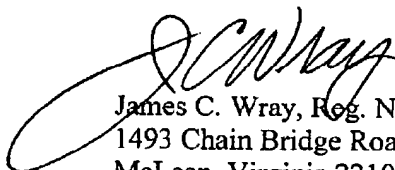
Claim 4 is dependent on patentable Claim 3, and adds the further patentable element that the small partial apertured boards are made by means of an injection molding process. Applicant traverses Examiner's holding of obviousness without citing to art. No art suggests the use of injection moulding to be desirable in the making of harness devices for weaving machines. One of the primary motivations for the present invention was that it allows the harness board to be made by injection moulding, which is not possible with a one piece aperture board. No art teaches or suggests the use of injection moulding, therefore Claim 4 is patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Hacker.

Therefore, Claims 3 and 4 are patentable over Hacker.

CONCLUSION

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully,



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